

# A man after God's own heart

The psalmist Ethan recounted the testimony of the Lord concerning David. He said, 'I have found David My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed him...My arm also will strengthen him'. Likewise, Luke recounted the words of Samuel, 'The Lord has sought out a man for Himself after His own heart and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people'. The Lord Himself spoke of David as a man 'who will do all My will'. The prophet Jeremiah spoke on behalf of the Lord saying, 'Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart who will feed you on knowledge and understanding'. As a result they would be multiplied and increased.

It is most certainly true that David sought to do the will of God. 'David did what was right in the sight of the Lord and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite'. Of course the matter of Uriah was a very serious incident involving adultery and murder. The thought that David is a man after God's own heart is well known to all Christians. But how can it be that David, who made so many glaring mistakes, is reckoned as a man after God's own heart? What is it about the Lord's own heart that David was comparable too? The most well known passage of the New Testament is 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son'. David committed himself to this essential proposition and lifestyle of giving and offering. David was a man of offerings and altars.

## References:

Psa 89:20-21   1 Sam 13:14  
Jer 3:15-16   Acts 13:22  
1 Kings 15:5   John 3:16

## Further Study

Psa 89

## Daily Psalm

Psalm 133

# Blessed is the man

Concerning the life of David, the Scripture says, 'Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity'. We are all aware of the transgressions of David. Nevertheless, his failures were not imputed to him. In all points, David was a man of offering. In seeking to build the house of the Lord, he gave firstly from the king's treasury and then from his own personal wealth. When David sinned by taking a census, the Lord stood up against him. His first response was to build an altar. David understood and applied the principle of offering, demonstrating that he was a man after God's own heart. The desire to offer resides in everyone whose heart is after God.

We know the Lord tore the kingdom from David's predecessor, King Saul. Saul also built an altar after he had defied the Lord's command. But he was told that 'to obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams'. Giving an offering does not of itself alleviate the need for obedience.

The Lord said of David, 'He is a man who will do all My will'. The altar and the offerings certainly call upon the heart of God toward us. He indeed covers our sin and does not impute iniquity to us. But this only occurs when the true and genuine spirit of offering rests within our hearts. This is what the Scripture calls 'freewill offering'. A freewill offering represents the whole heart of the giver. It does not in anyway allow for selective or discretionary giving. All offering is given according to the will of God and with a willing heart.

## References:

Rom 4:8      2 Sam 24:10  
Psa 32:2     1 Sam 15:22  
1 Chron 29:2-5

## Further Study

1 Sam 15

## Daily Psalm

Psalm 134

# The heart of offering

More than anything else, we know that 'God is love'. This 'love' is demonstrated in giving and offering. 'For God so loved the world that He gave'. In this way, Paul refers to Jesus' life and example. He says, 'Walk in love just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma'. Giving and offering is the action and evidence of love. Our hearts are not necessarily full of love simply because we have warm feelings. Love is evident when offering is active. From his earliest days, David sought to build a house for the Lord and to give to Him. The mercy of God is active toward us when we meet Him with offering. When we transgress and cast ourselves upon the mercy of God, we should not presume upon His forgiveness without joining His offering. The essence of God's mercy and forgiveness is in His offering for us. Therefore, we must meet Him and His mercy by offering.

And more so, we must be people of offering and altars at all times. King David lived a life of constant offering. It was not as if he only offered when he sinned, for the sake of finding mercy and pardon. When we give offering it must be representative of the heart. A true heart is evidenced in three ways. Firstly, offering is given from a willing heart. Secondly, offering is given from an obedient and submissive heart. This was clearly the testimony of the Lord concerning David. 'He is a man who will do all My will'. And thirdly, offering must represent the work and predestination of the giver.

## References:

1 John 4:8    Acts 13:22  
John 3:16  
Eph 5:2

## Further Study

1 John 4

## Daily Psalm

Psalm 135

# A willing heart

We recall the command of the Lord that ‘no one shall appear before Me empty-handed’. In this way, the Lord directed Moses to ‘tell the children of Israel to raise a heave offering’. The Lord does not demand an offering. Instead, He is seeking the man who is after His own heart, who makes offering willingly. In the book of Samuel, we read that Saul offered to find the Lord’s favour in a difficult situation. But this is not within the spirit of offering. The purpose of offering with a true heart is to do His will. Hence, Moses sought out those whose hearts *moved* them to make offering. In the same way, the seven eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth looking to strongly support those ‘whose hearts are fully His’.

Having been moved in their hearts, the Israelites brought their heave offerings of all manner of materials which the Lord Himself stipulated. These heave offerings represented the heart of the givers and their obedience to the commands of the Lord. The tabernacle was the first house of the Lord and had to be built according to the due order and pattern. As the psalmist said, ‘Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it’. Accordingly, David was a man after God’s own heart and he sought to offer willingly. Because of his example, the captains and the people also offered willingly. David understood the principle and privilege of offering. He testified, ‘Who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as willingly as this. For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You’.

## References:

Ex 23:15      Psa 127:1  
Ex 25:1-9    2 Chron 16:9  
1 Chron 29:14-19

## Further Study

1 Chron 29

## Daily Psalm

Psalm 136

# Work and predestination

All offering must be directed toward the will of God. It is God who is at work to 'will and to do according to His good pleasure' or His desire. In this way, we enter into the fellowship of offering, doing the will of God and therefore fulfilling our own work and predestination. He has prescribed for each one of us a pathway of offering whereby we bring the fruit of our labour which is the evidence of our predestination. King David demonstrated this principle when he gave generously and willingly to the building of the tabernacle, allowing the captains and the people to follow.

Conversely, this was the crisis for Cain. Although he was the firstborn, he rejected his role as king-priest and did not stand up to offer accordingly. The book of Hebrews recounts that God attributed righteousness to Abel because of his offering. Abel evidently brought an offering that was commensurate with his own person, that is, his work and predestination. It is our hope that the Lord will also bear witness of us when we bring an offering that truly represents our person, work, and obedience. This is what it means to know someone according to their fruit.

We rightly conclude that Abel fulfilled his predestination by becoming a participant in the offering and sacrifice of Christ. In the days just prior to His own sacrifice, Jesus spoke of those who shed the blood of the prophets. He mentioned Abel particularly. The declared righteousness of Abel was the testimony of Jesus concerning his life, work, and offering. According to his offering, we know that Abel has, and will yet receive, an inheritance and abundant entry into an everlasting kingdom.

## References:

Phil 2:13      Luke 6:44  
Heb 11:4  
Matt 23:35

## Further Study

Phil 2: 1-18

## Daily Psalm

Psalm 137